

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 12982 041919Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05 NSCE-00  
PA-01 /035 W

-----020307 041921Z /75

O 041850Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4139  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12982

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, TH  
SUBJECT: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN THAILAND: NY TIMES ARTICLE

REF: STATE 113197

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH UNHCR BANGKOK THE REPORT BY HENRY KAMM DATELINED KHLONG YAI APRIL 30 TO THE EFFECT THAT AS MANY AS 8,000 REFUGEES WILL ENTER THE UNCHR REFUGEE CAMP AT KHLONG YAI. UNHCR ACTING REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE EVERT HAS SAID THAT THE CAMBODIANS CONCERNED ARE FOR THE MOST PART FISHERMEN WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING ON AN ISLAND OFF TRAT AND WHO ARE BEING FORCED INTO UNEMPLOYMENT BY A LOCAL DEARTH OF JOBS.

2. AN ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE FOR ENTERING THE CAMPS IS THAT MANY BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL THEREBY BE ELIGIBLE FOR EARLY RESETTLEMENT ABROAD. MOST OF THE REFUGEES HAVE APPARENTLY NOT HERETOFORE BEEN IN A REFUGEE CAMP IN THAILAND.

3. UNHCR'S INITIAL POSTION IS THAT IF THESE CAMBODIANS ARE POST-APRIL 1975 ARRIVALS, THE UNHCR WILL NOT OBJECT TO THEIR ENTRY TO CAMP. WE WILL PRESS UNHCR TO URGE RTG NOT TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS DIRECT OR INDIRECT TO CAUSE REFUGEES WHO HAVE RESIDED OUTSIDE THE CAMPS TO ENTER THE UNHCR  
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CAMPS. HOWEVER, EVEN IF UNHCR AGREES TO TAKE THIS LINE, IT MAY NOT HAVE EFFECT.

4. WE WILL ALSO WEIGH IN AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS WITH RTG BUT SINCE ALL FACTS NOT CLEAR AND THERE NO APPARENT ELEMENT OF DIRECT COERCION INVOLVED BELIEVE IT COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR VICE PRESIDENT TO RAISE THIS MATTER.

5. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT KAMM ARTICLE IN-CORRECTLY INDICATES THAT KHLONG YAI POPULATION NOW 15,000. THE APPROXIMATE TOTAL CAMBODIAN POPULATION IN UNHCR-SUPPORTED CAMPS IN THAILAND IS 14,000, THE PRESENT KHLONG YAI POPULATION IS ABOUT 400.

6. WE WILL REPORT MORE FULLY ON FACTS AS AVAILABLE AND OUTLINE A PROPOSED U.S. RESPONSE.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 04 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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